

PIONEERS

The wilderness and the solitary place shall blossom as the rose."

This beautiful world which our good God has created for us, and which He has filled with every good thing necessary for our life and health and enjoyment, is in some sense very like the garden in which we placed our first parents of old; and the duties which He requires of us in regard to the natural world around us are the same as He required of them. Just as He placed them in the garden to work it and keep it, so He has placed us in this world to develop it, to cultivate it, to bring to light its hidden treasures, to turn its deserts and uncultivated wastes into blossoming, fertile, food-producing gardens, and to draw from it and its resources all the good things that are

needed for the comfort and enjoyment of our children and of our old people. With this object before us, it seems to us, implanted in every human heart that love for travel and change and adventure that seems part of most natures, and so, too, has given us that desire for gain and advancement and to better one's position, all good things in themselves thus regulated by a secret spirit, which has led to all the explorations and geographical discoveries which from age to age have brought about the developing and reclaiming of the waste places of the earth, and so as the older wastes of the earth have, by the course of natural events, become overgrown and overpopulated, have been opened up to the traveller by which new lands have been peopled and developed and cultivated, and homes found for the surplus folk who by the products of their industry have been a source of supply to the lands and people from whence they originally sprang. And in this way, that perfect order and rule and absence of confusion which have ever marked the wise plans, has the world been developed by its waste places have blossomed into lands, and men and nations have been blessed and comforted thereby.

How this has been proved in the history of our own land it is unnecessary to state, before the eyes of almost the youngest amongst us has God been displaying His purposes in this direction, in the more fertile portion of our Dominion. Where a few years ago was nothing but waste lands, to-day are thriving cities and prosperous towns, and where a few seasons since the tall rank grass of the Prairie stood and withered, to-day the waving grainlands its heavy ears that whiten in the sunlight, and our ever-increasing people

have bread and to spare, and the Mother Lands eat of the surplus and are filled. And as year by year the pioneers increase the area of cultivation extends, and nations and people that are as yet unborn will soon be found there rising up to honor God by their labor, and serve Him by carrying on the work of His great designs and purposes.

It is a matter for great thankfulness for us, then as Salvationists, to know that our great Leader and good God, is opening up the way by which the good seed of the Kingdom shall be spread broadcast amongst these growing peoples, and as we look at our Pioneer Barracks, small and insignificant as it may appear, we cannot but regard it as a Beacon Light in the midst of that "Prairie's shoreless sea," which shall lure and direct men and women's steps into that better track, which leads to the higher life and to the better way. And if those who are reclaiming the land and developing the country, are blessed in

material advancement is a good thing in itself, and the ambitions of men even after that, are called the good things of this life, if properly directed and kept within due bounds, will in themselves make for the bettering of the people, even spiritually, and so extend the dominion of the Christ-King and bring about the greater glory of God. All things are pure in themselves, good in themselves because God made them. And Paul says all things are ours to enjoy freely and fully. All we need is to use these things the right way; that is the way God wants them to be used. For God is a God of truth, faithful and honorable, and honest, and fair; not deceiving, nor unfair, nor one who lays snares for His creatures or leads them into temptation. That would not be like the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has put us into a good world, and not a wilderness, as some call it, if any part of it is really a wilderness it is because men have made it such by their own willfulness, ignorance,

forts and blessings of this life will help to make him a better man. They will teach him about his own character, about human nature and the people with whom he has to do—aye, and about God Himself, for it is written "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." All the blessings of life, as well as the anxieties and perplexities, ought to improve a man's character, and ought to call out in him the right feelings to teach him more and more of the likeness of God.

If a man be married it will teach him self-sacrifice, and to submit, and make his own will and ease and comfort subservient and secondary to those of the woman he has promised to cherish, and so being pure in heart he will see God.

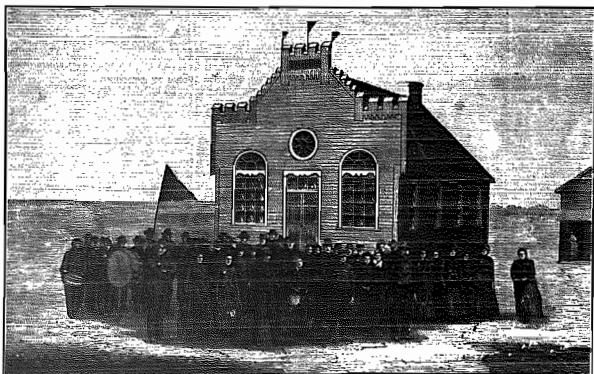
If he be a son he will know how blessed it is to obey, and being jealous of his father's honor he will do or suffer aught to establish it, even as Christ suffered to bring glory to God, and so will he see God.

If he has children he will learn to teach and train him, and make him careful of his conduct and example before them, and the Godlike parts of his character will be called out before them, and so he, being pure in heart, will see God.

If he has money and wealth it will teach him, as it teaches all pure-hearted men that charity and generosity are not only a duty, but an honour and a joy. That giving is the highest pleasure on earth because it is God's pleasure, because the honor and blessedness of God is that He growth liberally to all, and ungrudgingly not. And so he in his wealth, being pure in heart, shall see God.

If he has health and strength and high spirits they too will teach him if his heart be pure. He will learn to look up to God as the giver of health and strength; of the power to delight in working, because God himself is full of life, ever busy, ever rejoicing to put forth His Almighty power for the good of the whole universe. And so indeed in every relation of life, if a man's heart is pure he will see God.

Surely then it is not too much to hope—believe that those who are to come, the men and women, the boys and girls, who shall people the fertile plains of our North-west, shall be a pure-hearted people, a people that shall see and love and obey God in every relation of life. That it may be so it is very necessary that our Pioneer Barracks and every barracks that shall be raised on the bosom of those Prairie lands, shall be full of pure-hearted soldiers, and that the wayward, the erring, the weary and the indolent souls who slumber there within their walls, may but share the beautiful evidences of the Better Life shining out in every word and action of those who fight God's battles therein.



OUR PIONEER BARRACKS IN THE NORTH-WEST.—Dedicated at Neepawa, May 26th, 1888.

working together with God for the temporal good of His children, these blessed indeed are they who in seeking the souls of this pioneer people, are workers together with Him for their eternal Salvation. And as the coming race that shall people these new lands, are as it were, being born amidst the blaze of the Gospel light, and amongst a very competition of evangelical efforts, may we not confidently hope that they may never be decimated by the miseries of iniquity that have made havoc amongst, and laid waste the energies of older peoples from which they have descended. Surely under the present dispensation, it is not presumption to thus forecast the coming generations of our land; for men have not now to beat about to find the things that make for their highest good, and few amongst us there are indeed who have not sufficient light to admire, even if they refuse to practice, that righteousness that exalteth a nation.

Indeed, this very spirit of desire for

towardness, laziness, or violence. But God has put us into a good world and given us pure and harmless appetites, feelings and relations. Therefore all the relations of life are holy. To be a husband, a father, a brother, or a son, is pure and good. To have prosperity in this world, and to use it, to enjoy ourselves in this life as far as we can without hurting ourselves or our neighbor, all this is pure and holy and good. God does not grudge or upbraid. He does not frown upon innocent pleasure. For God is light and in Him is no darkness nor gloom at all. Therefore He rejoices in seeing His children healthy and happy. Therefore, as we believe Christ looks down and smiles upon the little children at their play, aye, and on the grown boys and girls too, and the laugh of the babe is heavenly music in His ears. All things are pure which God has given a man, and therefore if a man is pure in heart, all which God has given him, will not only do him no harm but will do him good. All the com-

power to work and the power to delight in working, because God himself is full of life, ever busy, ever rejoicing to put forth His Almighty power for the good of the whole universe. And so indeed in every relation of life, if a man's heart is pure he will see God.

N.B.—Captain Kailasam is progressing favourably.

of the B. A. from Headquarters (price
costs) as it explains the matter in d

